REFERENCE TO THE DEMISE OF H. H. THE MAHARAJA OF MYSORE.

PRESIDENT : Order, order. It is my melancholy duty on this occasion to advert to the demise of His Highness the Maharaja of Mysore which took place a couple of days ago. Honourable members know that a holiday has been declared for Trivandrum and that the only reason why this House has been asked to sit is that to finish the Budget it is necessary to continue its labours to day and to-morrow.

It is hardly necessary for me to speak at length regarding such a well known personality as His late Highness. It may be remembered that born in 1884, he succeeded to his exalted position when he was eleven years old on the untimely demise of his father. During the period of minority the affairs of the Mysore Government were superintended by his mother, a person of rare qualifications and great foresight and decision. At the early age of eighteen His Highness was invested with full powers and from 1902 until 1940 he has reigned over that country. It was the privilege and good fortune of His Highness to have as his first Dewan indubitably the greatest administrator that modern India has produced, namely, Sir K. Seshadri Aiyar. After him there was a catena of illustrious statesmen who were in charge of the administration of Mysore, including amongst others, Sir M. Visveswarayya and the present Dewan of Mysore, Sir, Mirza Ismail, whose many qualities of head and heart are so well known and so familiar to this House and to the country that I need not dilate upon them.

But, great and illustrious as his advisers had been, the progress achieved by Mysore, rapid, striking and enduring, would not have been possible but for the personality of a ruler who will assuredly rank among the great rulers of India. United with a character which was lofty and inflexible he had great gifts of intelligence. His love of the arts was profound and comprehensive. He was himself a musician and composer. He was a student of many literatures. His piety and his fervour were things with which only those who came into close contact with him could appreciate, and admire. He was a man who lived always as if in the sight of his Maker. United with those qualities he had a grasp of the essentials of administration, a desire to know the best that had been achieved in other countries and an anxiety to translate those things into the practicalities of every day administration in Mysore. The result has been that, industrially, economically and artistically, Mysore to-day ranks next below none amongst the States and provinces of this vast Sub-continent. The great progress made in many directions hardly needs any recounting. It includes the great hydro-electric and irrigation schemes, the beautification of the cities, the rapid utilisation of the industrial resources, aided by a people who, fortunately for the Maharaja, have been anxious to put their capital into their industries.

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[President]

There is a particular reason for our making special references to His Highness. The relations between the Mysore and the Travancore Royalties have been intimate. His Highness the present Maharaja received his administrative training partly in Mysore and the friendship and cordiality which has subsisted between His Highness of Mysore and His Highness of Travancore are well known. It is a matter for remembrance now that on the day His Highness Sri Mulam Thirunal died a holiday was proclaimed in the towns of Mysore and Bangalore, in 1924. Thus, it will be seen that not only the present generation but the previous generation of Royalties in Mysore and Travancore were united by ties of friendship and comradeship. It therefore behoves us to pay our tribute to a Ruler whose name will live long in the annals of India. I am sure that this Honourable House will give expression to its sense of the great loss which this country has sustained by the demise of His Highness the Maharaja of Mysore and will entrust to me as its President and representative the task of conveying to the members of the Royal Family of Mysore our deep feelings of sympathy and our condolences over the irretrievable loss to which Mysore has been subjected.

I propose, after another item of business has been disposed of, to adjourn the House for half an hour, so that we may meet again at 12, in token of our feelings of respect and regard to the memory of the illustrious Ruler.

MR. CHATTANATHA KARAYALAR (*Pathanapuram* cum *Shencotta*): Sir, I wish to associate myself with all the sentiments that you have expressed on this occassion. You, Sir, referred to the various qualities of head and heart of His Highness the late Maharaja of Mysore. I do not therefore propose to advert to those qualities. I shall refer to the outstanding features of his reign. The period of reign extending over 38 years of the late Maharaja of Mysore was a remarkable period in the history of Mysore for several reasons. That period witnessed the development of Mysore in various directions. The reign of the late Maharaja was characterised by a broad outlook, by wise statesmanship, by highminded devotion to the interests of His Highness' millions of subjects. It may be said that during the period of reign of His Highness the late Maharaja the State attained a very high level of administrative efficiency and economic prosperity. This poriod was crowded with achievements in both the fields of administration and of legislation. Indeed, he was one of the greatest rulers of Indian India and it is deplorable that His Highness was snatched away at a time when his wise statesmanship would have been of immense value when the future of India is being shaped. The loss is a great loss, Sir, to India in general and to the States in particular.

We Travancoreans have reason to be particularly sorry over the demise of His Late Highness because of the association between the two States of Mysore and Travancore and particularly because of the

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very cordial relations that have always subsisted between the Royal Houses of Mysore and Travancore. This House, Sir, would request you to convey its feelings of profound sorrow over the demise of the great Ruler to the Royal House of Mysore.

MR. KAINIKARA M. PADMANABHA PILLAI: Sir, I also wish to associate myself with the sentiments expressed by you and by the Deputy President. His Highness the late Maharaja of Mysore was one of the most advanced, cultured and gifted Rulers of Indian States. During his administration, aided, as you have pointed out by some of the most famous ministers, and with the healthy co-operation of the people, the country has reached an enviable position: industrially, economically and educationally. Our sympathy and condolence go the people of Mysore and the Royal Family in this moment of deep sorrow. We wish them peace of mind and pray for the eternal peace of the soul of His Highness the Maharaja.

MR. M. RAMAKRISHNA PILLAI (*Vaikom* cum *Kottayam*): Sir, I also wish to associate myself with the sentiments that have been expressed by you and the other speakers. His Highness the late Maharaja of Mysore succeeded to the throne of his ancestors in 1895 and was invested with ruling powers in 1902. His Highness' reign has been most eventful and glorious in the history of Mysore. During His Highness' reign Mysore has made remarkable progress in all directions. His Highness the late Maharaja was served by a succession of able and far-sighted ministers and modern Mysore today is the making of His Highness. Constitutional reforms of very great importance have been introduced during His Highness' reign; in 1907, the Legislative Council was introduced in Mysore and in 1923, the Representative Assembly was placed on a statutory basis. Further reforms were introduced in the Legislative Council and recently also still more reforms have been inaugurated. Local self-Government has also been given a great impetus by the introduction of the Village Panchayat system. By the installation and the development of Hydro-Electric works and the extension of the supply of power even to the remotest villages in Mysore, Mysore has been transformed into a great industrial country. The Mysore Steel and Iron Works, Cement Works, the Mysore Silk and other industries are the result of this project. In the matter of irrigation and agricultural improvement, the celebrated Krishnasagar Works are a monument of the warm interest that His Highness took in the development of the country. It is not necessary for me to go into the details in regard to the various schemes introduced during His Highness' reign. His Highness was a pious Hindu and lived up to the ideal of a Hindu Ruler that the promotion of the happiness of his subjects is his sole object in life.

His Highness the Maharaja has endeared himself to the people of Travancore on account of the great regard and affection which His Highness had for their Highnesses the Maharajas of Travancore; and

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[Mr. M. Ramakrishna Pillai]

the people of Travancore will ever cherish with reverence and affection the memory of His Highness. I am sure that the people of Travancore will always remember with gratitude the great regard His Highness had for the Royal Family of Travancore. India to-day is definitely the poorer on account of the loss of great, good and illustrious sovereign.

MR. E. SUBRAMONIA AIYAR (*Nominated*): Sir, I beg to associate myself with the sentiments expressed in this House by the Chair and the other members. The loss that Mysore has sustained to-day is not a loss solely confined to herself. Travancore feel it equally with Mysore in the loss of the great ruler. As was pointed out here, the loss is really a loss to the whole of India. As for the greatness of the late Maharaja we do not want any testimony except the progress of the country during the 38 years of the reign of that illustrious ruler. In fact, one can easily see that during these 38 years Mysore has been transformed into a country where everything necessary for the healthy development of and a contented living for its citizens have been created. It also illustrates what could be done in a country by a Ruler assisted by able administrators and with the co-operation of the people. Above all, one thing I have to emphasise in the life of the late Highness the Maharaja of Mysore, is his piety and religious fervour. It was only very recently that he went up to Kailas on a pilgrimage. That shows the strength of His Highness the late Maharaja when he makes up his mind to take a particular course.

I may say that this House is deeply touched and affected by the loss of that illustrious Ruler and our profound feelings of sorrow and condolence may be conveyed to the Royal Family of Mysore and to the people of Mysore.

SRIMATHI T. NARAYANI AMMA (*Nominated*): Sir, in supporting the motion before the House and associating myself with the sentiments given expression to by the Chair and other members, I wish only to add that His late Highness the Maharaja of Mysore was in several respects like His Highness the Maharaja late Sri Mulam Thirunal of revered memory. Both of them had a long and distinguished reign. And reforms of a far reaching nature had been introduced during the reigns of both of them. Though conservative by instinct, they had a wide out-look and they did not hesitate to inaugurate reforms which they found were in consonance with the spirit of the times and calculated to promote the interest and welfare of the people. Both the Highnesses were intensely religious and highly patriotic. So far as the relationship that existed between the two ruling families is concerned, it is so well-known that a very cordial relationship has long existed between the two families, and His late Highness, Sir Sree Krishna Raja Wadiyar Bahadur had considered himself more or less as the uncle of His Highness Sri Chitra Thirunal, our beloved sovereign. During the thirty-eight years' of his Highness's reign the State of

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Mysore has been raised to a high level of administrative efficiency and economic prosperity. And the period of his reign has been described as the Golden age of Mysore. The motion before the House is to bemoan the demise of such a Maharaja who was the idol of his people and the maker of modern Mysore. I earnestly support the motion before the House.

The motion was put and carried unanimously, the whole House standing.

PRESIDENT : I have received two adjournment motions. I shall deal with them after 12 noon.

The House adjourned at 11.30 A. M. and met again at 12 noon.

ADJOURNMENT MOTION.

PRESIDENT : I have received notice of a motion for adjournment of the business of the House, which is as follows :

> "Under Rule 221 of the Assembly Rules, I beg leave for permission to move for the adjournment of the business of the Assembly for the purpose of discussing a definite matter of urgent public importance *viz.*, to discuss the statement in the Hindu of 3rd August under the caption "Indian States and independence" and "Mr. Gandhi's article in the Harijan and its implication with regard to the sovereignty of the States."

In a matter of this kind, normally, the Chair would not have allowed a discussion because, incidentally, though only incidentally—it might raise questions affecting the relationship between States and the Paramount power. But in as much as questions have been raised which are of fundamental importance to the continued existence and the status of the Indian States and of Travancore in particular, I propose to make a statement on the matter leaving it to the honourable members of this House whether they would deem it necessary to pursue the matter. If they deem it necessary, I shall give them sufficient time to discuss the question although it might entrench upon the time for the Budget discussion.

With reference to the article by Mr. Gandhi in the "Harijan" headed "Sir C. P. Ramaswami Aiyar's Extravagances" and the remarks made by Mr. Katju who seems to be as emotional as he is talented; it is not my purpose to follow the example of either in bandying epithets and attributing lack of patriotism to others who do not agree with them. These are familiar tactics in certain political circles. The sense of disappointment and frustration on the part of Mr. Gandhi whose advice and whose philosophy have been set aside by his own followers is evidently responsible for the want of balance and moderation which characterises his latest production.

Speaking with reference to irrefutable facts and as a lawyer and student of politics, let me point out that in 1729 Maharaja Martanda Varma of Travancore consolidated his dominions and attained a position of unique importance in Kerala. In 1756, the Travancore State assisted the British in the Madura and Tinnevelly campaigns. The successor of Maharaja Martanda Varma was a steadfast ally of the

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